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SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT		EXAMINER	
		A. Qureshi	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER		
2662	3		

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

32. (Currently Amended) A method for routing a digital data call received on a subscriber line to a destination, where the digital data call is received on a subscriber line connected to a termination unit communicating with external to a switch in a central office, the method comprising:

acquiring the digital data call at the termination unit on the subscriber line at at least one of a digital line unit, a remote line termination unit, a remote data terminal, a subscriber line interface circuit, or a digital subscriber line module;

terminating the digital data call on the subscriber line at the acquiring digital line unit, remote line termination unit, remote data terminal, subscriber line interface circuit, or digital subscriber line module; and

routing the digital data call to the destination on a channel external to the switch and bypassing the switch.

33-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 32 further comprising:

assigning a logical identifier to the digital data call; and
associating the call with the subscriber line.

38. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for routing a digital data call received on a subscriber line to a destination, where the digital data call is received on a subscriber line connected to a termination unit communicating with external to a switch in a central office, the apparatus comprising:

a line termination unit connected to the subscriber line, where the line termination unit comprises at least one of a digital line unit, a remote line termination unit, a remote data terminal, a subscriber line interface circuit, or a digital subscriber line module, the line termination unit further comprising means for acquiring and terminating the digital data call on the subscriber line; and

a channel for routing the digital data call from the termination unit to the destination, where the channel is external to the switch and bypasses the switch.

39. (Previously presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 38 further comprising:

means for assigning a logical identifier to the digital data call; and
means for associating the call with the subscriber line.

40. (Cancelled)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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41. (New) A method for routing a digital data call received on a subscriber line to a destination external to a switch in a central office, the method comprising:
 acquiring the digital data call on the subscriber line at a location remote from the central office at at least one of a remote line termination unit, a remote data terminal, a subscriber line interface circuit, or a digital subscriber line module;
 terminating the digital data call on the subscriber line at the location remote from the central office at the acquiring remote line termination unit, remote data terminal, subscriber line interface circuit, or digital subscriber line module, the step of terminating comprising converting the digital data call to a digital data stream; and
 routing the digital data call to the destination on a channel external to the switch and bypassing the switch.

42. (New) A method as set forth in claim 32 where:
 the step of acquiring the digital data call on the subscriber line comprises the acquiring the call at a location remote from the central office; and
 the step of terminating the digital data call on the subscriber line comprises terminating the call at the location remote from the central office.

43. (New) A method as set forth in claim 42 where the step of terminating the digital data call on the subscriber line comprises converting the digital data call to a digital data stream.

44. (New) A method as set forth in claim 32 where the step of terminating the digital data call on the subscriber line comprises converting the digital data call to a digital data stream.

45. (New) An apparatus as set forth in claim 38 where the means for means for acquiring and terminating the digital data call on the subscriber line comprises means for acquiring and terminating the call at a location remote from the central office.

46. (New) An apparatus as set forth in claim 44 where the step of terminating the digital data call on the subscriber line comprises converting the digital data call to a digital data stream.

47. (New) An apparatus as set forth in claim 38 where the step of terminating the digital data call on the subscriber line comprises converting the digital data call to a digital data stream.